

Whilton Newsletter



1999



**THIS BEING THE LAST NEWSLETTER OF THE
TWENTIETH CENTURY, THE EDITORS SEND YOU
GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR
CHRISTMAS 1999 AND THE YEAR 2000**



Whilton Parish Council

HALF ALLOTMENT TO RENT

£6 PER YEAR

RENT FREE UNTIL APRIL 2000!

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Clerk to the Parish Council

Telephone 843319



PARISH MATTERS

It was good to see a 200% increase in public attendance at our last meeting on 1 November! I will however temper my praise with memory of words of the banker, Sir Frederic Seebohm, the writer of the Report which led to the creation of modern Social Service Departments. He was responding to Sir Keith Joseph and Barbara Castle who had been launching the new era with promises of massive increases in the new departments' budgets. "As a banker I have to remind you that 100% increase on a penny is still only 2p." Having said that, the Parish Council was encouraged.

WORK IN AND AROUND THE PARISH

The Council was able to confirm the minutes of the extra meeting on 12 October on their concerns over the proposed tip at Rye Hill, their reply to Daventry District Council on options for public parking in the town, and cheques paid out for lights and village magazines. Councillors were pleased to hear that NCC had carried out some repairs to the Southview walls and steps and were to test the drains on Brington Lane where some recent water had not drained away, threatening to flood a house. We have since heard that the tests have shown that urgent work to restore the drains is necessary. BT finally got around to replying to our complaint over the delays in the redecoration of the telephone box. A full apology was given following the belated, but very welcome, completion.

COUNCILLOR AMOS'S REPORTS

Councillor Mrs Amos was present and Parish Councillors were able to confirm to her that as elsewhere people were settling down to the rearranged bin collections, but were pleased to hear the matter remained under review and a request for a larger bin would be sympathetically considered. She also considered the WASP meetings in each ward had gone well and our representative's request for an extra streetlight below the Village Hall and help with the path to the Spinney would be considered alongside other village requests. She confirmed the process would continue next year; so please let us have your thoughts. Miss Swinford was appointed to represent us at the site meeting with Mrs Amos over our wish to see an alternative placement of the new office application for the Marina.

PARISH ACHIEVEMENTS

All present admired the Village in Bloom Trophy which had been accompanied by £30 worth of bulbs to plant and the lesser Village of the Year award of the Canon Dunn Rose Bowl with its £15 prize. We would hope to regain our winner's label next year, but the Chairman thanked all who had worked so hard to make this double achievement.

CELEBRATING THE MILLENNIUM

The rest of the meeting looked forward as it should, as the final Council meeting of the Millennium. The Council agreed to support the Village Hall Committee in sending a new questionnaire around the village to gauge interest in a firework display and wine with nibbles in the Village Hall. It agreed to finance the purchase of these supplies up to £350, if there was sufficient interest. The Chairman reported that 70 mugs had been ordered. Mr Barnes agreed to design a suitable crest and stand to commemorate our achievement in Village of the Year Competitions in recent times. The Clerk reported that work on the Millennium Map was going well and the Council agreed to a sum of up to £300 to complete it, get it framed, and hung in the Village Hall.

FINANCE

The Council then had to consider its precept from the District Council Rate for 2000-2001. This is a year in which there will be election expenses for a new Council and the bill for the next triennial Audit. The Auditors had concluded a sufficient reserve should be retained. It was therefore agreed to request the present sum of £3500. The Chairman and Clerk were authorised to submit the same breakdown of the precept as last year.

LOCAL NEEDS

The rest of the meeting was concerned with more local needs. Cllr Richard Amos informed the meeting that there had been further delay to the amended Sandspinner Application which was now to be held in January. In the same month the enquiry over the new County Structure Plan starts. He was also able to confirm that agreement had been reached on an extended car park at Long Buckby station for 100 cars. Concern was expressed about the noise of low flying helicopters at Whilton Mill hospitality events and very noisy quad bikes being ridden late at night over their fields. The disintegration of road verges in the village, especially on the bends, concerned another. The Clerk was asked to raise the issue with NCC.

Finally, the Clerk was advised to advertise the need for a new half allotment holder who could start now rent free till April to get the ground into shape. He was also to ask whether there had been any further thoughts from parents in the village about forming an action committee to create a children's playground. The originator of the request had asked for a second entry in the magazine. Please let me know if there is any interest.

Meanwhile the Parish Council wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and Millennium celebration. We meet again on 10 January at 8pm. Why not make a resolution to be there?

Keith Hiscock
Clerk to the Parish Council

SERVICES FOR ST ANDREW'S CHURCH WHILTON

DECEMBER 1999

5TH	10.00 AM	UNITED BENEFICE SUNG EUCHARIST AT BRINGTON
12TH	4.00 PM	CHRISTINGLE
19TH	6.00 PM	CAROL SERVICE
25TH	11.00 AM	FAMILY SERVICE AND HOLY COMMUNION
1ST JAN 2000	11.45 AM	SHORT SERVICE WITH BELLS



WELCOME 2000



Whilton bells will join with others throughout the country to welcome in the new millennium at 12 noon on 1st January.

On this special and unique occasion it is planned to hold a short service (prayers, reading and a hymn) at 11.45 am. This will be followed by a selection of eats and drinks and time to socialise.

PLEASE DO COME ALONG

Janet Bowers

WHILTON VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB

SEPTEMBER 1999

1st Prize	030	K & J Davies	£40
2nd Prize	064	J Ferguson	£20
3rd Prize	004	P Morris	£10

OCTOBER 1999

1st Prize	079	M Whelan	£40
2nd Prize	072	R Wells	£20
3rd Prize	084	T Treacy	£10

NOVEMBER 1999

1st Prize	081	H Haynes	£40
2nd Prize	038	A Tilston	£20
3rd Prize	145	T Treacy	£10

Congratulations to all the winners

Whilton WI

Secretary's Report for the year October 1998 -1999.

This has been a special celebratory year for our institute, as it is quite an achievement to have kept going in a small village for 50 years. We have had a variety of meetings for our 13 members. Because we are small the character of some of our meetings has changed. We have more outings in proportion to the past, and overall we are creating more of our own entertainment.

The main reasons for this are our small size and differing needs. We do not have large sums of money to pay visiting speakers, and we sometimes feel a little awkward if a visitor travels ten or twenty miles to speak to eight people. As a group we also appreciate the opportunities to talk and share together, and these come in less formal meetings. One advantage of small numbers too is that it is easy to arrange an outing, just taking three or four cars.



Of course the 50th birthday celebrations in July were the main event of the year. We are all grateful to Ros Gardner, who put a great deal of work into organising this, but everyone played their part, both beforehand and on the day. The sun shone on us and helped to create a relaxed atmosphere where old friends could meet and where a walk around the village and church was a pleasure for all. Janet Bowers' cake was magnificent and the table groaned with Kath Wright's flowers and a variety of wonderful food to tempt us. Past members clearly had happy memories of Whilton, and we were especially fortunate to have Gladys Smith from Spain and Freda Ogston from Aberdeen, who were able to join Kath Wright as founder members in cutting the cake. The County Chairman, Christine Farmer, not only joined us, but also won a raffle prize, and the special prize, the engraved glass vase, was won by Angela Hall, who had come back from Staffordshire.

However, this was only one of many meetings this year. Our speakers have given us talks on rescued wild creatures, recycling, on a visit to South Africa and on a wedding in Uganda. The



delicious Members Night meal and entertainment was provided by Ros Gardner and Chris Messenger, with the assistance of Frances Drake and Diana Scott, and £45 was collected for the Central American Hurricane Relief Fund. Ros and I provided our own evening based on oranges and lemons in January and we had a good discussion in May with our VCO, Meg Mayhew.

We have had two very successful outings, joined by a few friends and family members. The first was a guided walk at Pitsford Reservoir on an idyllic evening. The weather was not quite as good for our September evening at Hellidon Vineyard, but we soon forgot about the cool breeze as we picked up Mrs Hillier's knowledge and enthusiasm for her work and then savoured the wine inside the windmill. Our visit coincided with the publication of a two page spread on the vineyard in the Chronicle and Echo, which may have encouraged more people to make a visit to this interesting place.



Besides our Wednesday evening meetings, we have also met to work on the Millennium Map for the Village Hall. The field background is now finished and most of the details of houses, roads and water have been completed.

This year we have said goodbye to Anne Kilgour, who has moved to Oundle, and Jane O'Riordan will be leaving for Scotland next year and so our numbers are not healthy. However, our varied activities show that WIs do not have to be large to be successful. We have had a good year together, and look forward to another.

Anthea Hiscock
Secretary

Whilton W.I. November Meeting

During the business meeting arrangements for "Members' Night" were finalised and members were asked to bring a contribution for a Buffet Supper.

The theme for the evening was "Christmas Craft Workshop". This was organised by Ros Gardner and Anthea Hiscock and was a "hands-on" event.

Ros Gardner's group had the choice of making a Christmas card or tree decorations. The latter included a dinky Rudolf reindeer, complete with red nose. Anthea's group made 'calorific' sweets with a choice of many items for decoration.

The vote of thanks by Janet Bowers expressed the appreciation of all the hard work put in by the two demonstrators that had resulted in a most enjoyable evening.

Trudy Haynes



The support for our working days is reasonable but we would still like to welcome new faces to assist with the many tasks. *The next working session will be on Sunday, 12th December 1999 from 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm.* Please do come along; it is great fun as well as being good physical exercise and most importantly; making a contribution to the local environment.

We have been successful with our application for a grant for the cost of the purchase and installation of a notice / information board.

The bid for a grant was made to The Millennium Festival Awards For All and the amount granted is from The Heritage Lottery Fund. Once this noticeboard is purchased and installed, full information on the spinney will be displayed.

As informed in the October Newsletter, the second of our series of articles now follows with our grateful thanks to Derek Coates, a member of the Management Group.

THE TREES

At the moment the wood is not very ecologically friendly due to the high proportion of hybrid black poplars. These are not native trees and have little value as a habitat for our birds or insects until they die. Once dead and the decay process starts, wood-boring larvae will attract woodpeckers and other species. Cavities form in decaying trees, which can provide roosting sites for bats, and nesting sites for the tit and owl families. There used to be two breeding pairs of little owls in two very old decrepit ash trees along the Buckby footpath. Sadly both these trees fell in recent gales and as far as I know there are no little owls nesting in the parish any more.

Beneath the poplar canopy is a remarkably robust, diverse and almost native woodland. We can create more light and space to allow the existing trees and shrubs to grow and begin planting groups of native trees that are suited to the site, by removing most of the poplars and I say "most" because we should retain some as "standing deadwood". This entails removing the tops and ring-barking thereby killing them and creating the conditions for decay. I have a few ideas to make artificial cavities in these with a chainsaw too .

The shrub layer is very dense along most of the western (village) side, effectively screening the wood from view and the village from those in the wood. Guelder Rose is prominent, with its wonderful autumn foliage and bright red berries. Hawthorn is, strictly speaking, classified as a shrub and is by far the most abundant shrub present. This is a valuable source of winter food for several species of birds and mammals. Elderberry is present but not widespread.

The understorey, i.e. the plants growing above the shrub layer but below the main woodland canopy, is almost entirely made up of native species. Ash is prominent in some parts and hawthorn the most numerous throughout.

There are a number of yews too, giving excellent roosts in winter months. There are specimens of native field maple, silver birch, wild cherry, willows, hornbeam and the alder.

A few examples of English Elm still struggle to survive by the new footbridge - unfortunately the best of them was destroyed when the bridge was installed! These are all sucker growth from roots of the elm trees that used abound in the parish, so will regenerate.

An objective that I support strongly would be along the lines of "Convert Whilton Spinney into natural English native-species woodland by the year 2050 to provide a peaceful and interesting amenity for the Parish".

This is not as straightforward as it may sound. What do we do with the hybrid black poplars (the dominant trees species), the sycamores and horse chestnuts, the laurel and the privet? Clearly, to achieve this objective, most of all of the non-native trees must be removed in a relatively short space of time - say two years. Very little can be done towards achieving it until the black poplars have gone. Careful study of the understorey in spring, before the poplars came into leaf, revealed that the overall height of the understorey is between one half and two thirds that of the poplars. The understorey would flourish without the shade given by the poplars and in a short space of time become an established and attractive feature of the village.

With the millennium approaching, tree planting schemes are extremely popular as lasting testimonials of the twentieth century's hope for the future. With this golden opportunity for planting, would it not be wonderful to plant a tree in the spinney for every family living in the parish as their contribution to the next century? Perhaps we can establish a parish custom of planting a tree for every child born in the parish in the future.

It is vitally important that all the trees we plant should be of local provenance, if at all possible, because they will thrive better than foreign grown specimens and support a greater diversity of our native wildlife.

In the longer term we can do this ourselves by collecting seeds from places like High Wood, Everdon Stubbs and Badby Woods to produce our own stock but in the short term a reliable local source of young trees is needed.

Consider this: If we plant an English Oak Tree it will take AT LEAST 90 YEARS to reach commercial maturity, 150 YEARS to reach natural maturity and probably WELL OVER 300 YEARS before it reaches the end of its life. If left untouched, it will probably take ANOTHER 300 YEARS before that oak is finally re-absorbed back into the soil to provide the nourishment for its offspring. Which of us will be here to see it even reach commercial maturity, let alone see it in all its fully mature glory? We must bear in mind that it will be our great-great-great grandchildren who will see the result of our wisdom, labours and investment at its best.

Derek Coates

WHILTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the PCC was held on Friday 15th October 1999 and items which may be of interest as follows:-

Memorial Seat - this is now at the home of Nora Swinford who has donated this as a memorial to her parents and is shortly to be installed in the churchyard.

Millennium Yew tree - this was collected recently at a special Yew Tree Distribution Service at Bugbrooke and will be planted in the churchyard in Spring 2000.

Churchyard Gates - an order has been placed with Richard Gautrey, Long Buckby, to make two identical gates to replace the existing which are in a poor state of repair. Certain work has been carried out to the single gate by Mr Harold Haynes and he has agreed to carry out further upgrading in due course. This is a project to mark the millennium.

Gate to Ringing Chamber - it was agreed to provide a gate to hang from the back pews to prevent small children entering that area when ringing is in progress.

Pentecost 2000 - it is proposed next year to organise our own Benefice Pilgrimage consisting of a Eucharist Service taking place in the form of a pilgrimage through the benefice churches. Each church would hold part of the service.

Social Committee - The Cantare Singers will be giving a concert Saturday 4th December in the church. A car boot sale is planned for the spring. The Copper Mile is progressing well; to date one tenth has been completed.

West Window - Freda Thomas Stained Glass Memorial Window - a meeting was held recently with Mrs Sarah Bennett and family to consider the design.

Derek Brown, Parochial Church Council

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR AND BEST KEPT CHURCHYARD COMPETITION 1999

Not quite the success of last year but nevertheless we achieved a joint placing with the village of Little Houghton for the Best First Round Loser. Our representative was presented with the Canon Dunn Rosebowl which we hold for the first six months (then pass to Little Houghton) and a cheque for £15. The amount of £15 will be added to previous years' winnings making a total of £90.

DFB - Parish Councillor

IN BRIEF.....

CONGRATULATIONS to Sara and John of Courtyard Barn, Manor Lane on the birth of their baby son George John on Monday 15th November.

BAPTISM - The Family Service at 11.00 am on Sunday 24th October included the Baptism of James Navre Ellison, grandson of Anna & Clifford Ellison.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Crime Report

There has been no reported crime in Whilton village to date this year, which is good news. However, crime figures recently issued by Daventry police show that between April 1998 and March 1999 neighbouring villages have recorded several incidents of burglary, criminal damage, stolen property and auto crime; thus the threat of crime is always present and only continued security and constant vigilance will succeed in eliminating it.

Christmas is often the busiest time of the year for thieves, pick-pockets burglars and bogus callers. Auto crime also increases, so be on your guard.

DON'T GIVE BURGLARS A GIFT AT CHRISTMAS

The following advice will help to reduce the rise in festive crime.

Pick-Pockets and Petty Thieves

- avoid carrying more money than you need.
- do not place your purse or handbag on top of a shopping bag, pram or supermarket trolley
- never carry a purse or wallet in the outside pocket of a shopping bag nor in the back pocket of trousers.

House Callers

- do not buy from or sell to door-to-door sales people. Only use tradespeople that are known and recommended. Never give money to a stranger whatever the reason.
- do not allow anyone into your home unless known to you
- secure front doors with a door-chain and do not open until completely satisfied of the caller's identity. Genuine callers from the service industries will carry an identity card and should make appointments to call.
- alert police immediately if you are suspicious about any caller.

Auto Crime

- check that doors are locked and windows shut before leaving a vehicle.
- do not leave shopping, handbags, coats and jackets in a parked car where they can be seen. Locked cars offer little resistance to the opportunist thief.
- visible steering locks can act as a deterrent to car thieves.

Home Security

- check that all doors are locked and windows securely closed before leaving home, even if only for a short time. Activate burglar alarm if possible.
- shut all front and side gates and keep the garage and shed doors locked. Close gates to drive when leaving home in a car.

Finally at Christmas

- don't leave curtains open at night with fairy lights shining
- presents piled up under a decorated and illuminated Christmas tree can spotlight a target for thieves.

DAVENTRY POLICE - 01327 300300

Christine Bilsborough
Coordinator.

Yews for the Millennium

From the Conservation Foundation Newsletter.

“Yews for the Millennium is a project created by the Conservation Foundation to provide every parish in the country at the Millennium with a young yew tree, propagated from an ancient yew tree estimated to be at least 2,000 years old and therefore growing at the time of the birth of Jesus Christ”.

As previously reported in our *Newsletter* St. Andrew's P.C.C. agreed to accept this offer and have since obtained approval for the chosen planting site from the Daventry D.C. Arboricultural Officer and the Archdeacon of Northampton.

On Sunday, October 10th, Mary Emery and I attended a special service at the church of St Michael and All Angels, Bugbrooke for the distribution of the yew saplings.

This was a most interesting service, with the history of 2,000 years being told as seen through the eyes of the tree - the parent of the saplings.

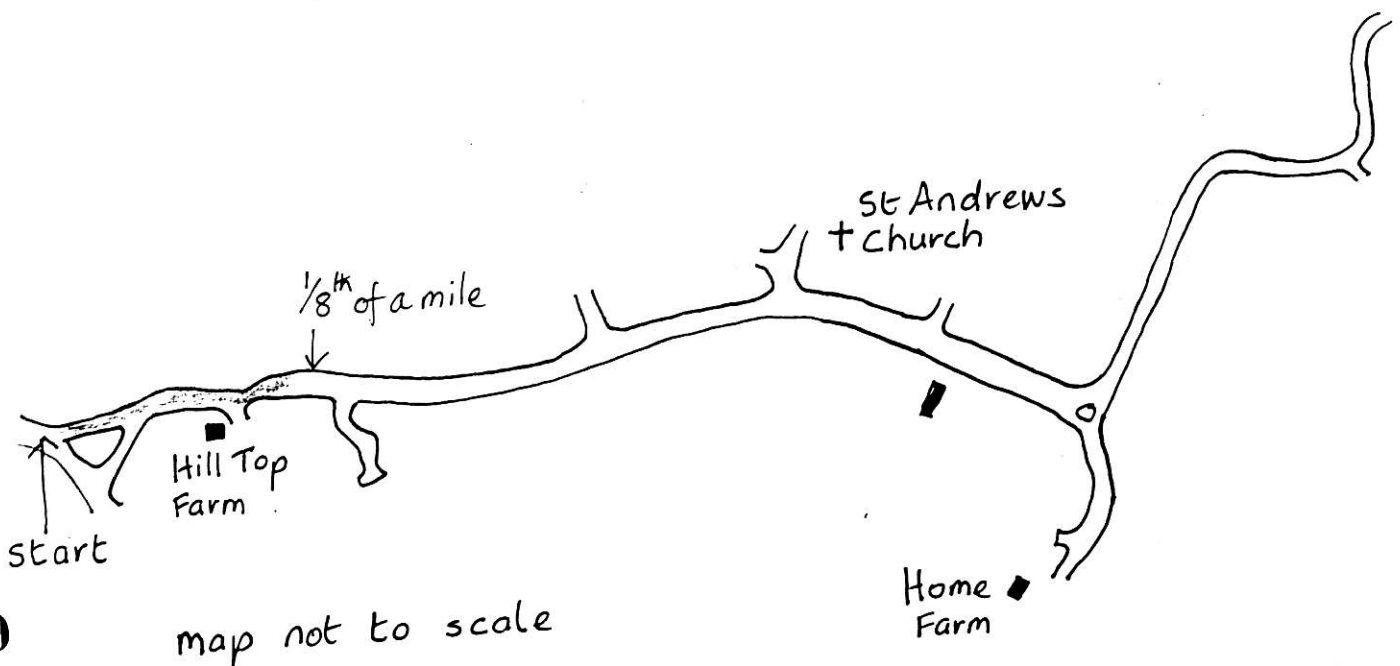
Our tree is from the Crowhurst yew tree in Surrey, reputed to be 4,000 years old, and will be planted in the churchyard during next spring, when it is planned to hold a special planting service/ceremony, so do look out for further notices and come along. Everyone is welcome!

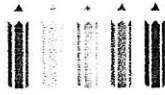
Janet Bowers, Churchwarden

Copper Mile Update

The coin line continues to advance and as we approach the festive season I can report that we have almost reached 1/8 th of a mile along our route. Donations have been received from far and wide and our thanks go to everyone who has helped the progress to date. Please continue to save your spare coppers and hand them in to Janet Bowers or Gill Denbigh at any time, or there is a donation point in the church.

Gill Denbigh





Brington & Whilton Pre-school

A Registered Nursery Education Provider and a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance

The Pre-school group are busily preparing for Christmas, making decorations and practising carols. The children will be singing carols in St Andrews Church on Friday 10th December at 11.00am. Everyone is welcome to join us for this simple Christmas celebration and afterwards in the village hall for coffee and mincepies.

Our group currently numbers 12 with an additional 2 on the waiting list for the new year. We do have a few places available and if you would like further information, please contact me on 01327 843543.

Our Ofsted inspection has been confirmed for January 2000 and we look forward to a successful report.

We need an additional member of staff to join us in January, and if you are interested in working with young children within the village, three mornings a week, term time only, please do telephone me on the above number.

Sara Mitchell

USED STAMPS

Last week I was able to take a carrier bag full of stamps to Lyncrest School. Many thanks to all who made this possible.

Christmastide is a time when more stamps than usual will be available and I would be grateful if these could be saved and left in the porch at the back door of the "Old Plough". They are very much appreciated for the 'Save the Children' Fund.

Trudy Haynes



WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

The Association met on 4th October in the Village Hall and consisted mainly of two reports - the outing to Barnsdale and the East Midlands in Bloom contest (see separate item). The Rose Bowl awarded was on view to be admired.

The speakers for next year are confirmed and several ideas were put forward to be considered for outings in the year 2000.

It was agreed that membership subscription would be £5 for a single and £9 for a double.

The next meeting is on Monday 6th December and is the AGM and social evening. This year members are having a buffet, all helping towards the refreshments.

The evening finished with a most interesting talk by Mr Beckwith on the art of winter hanging baskets.

The Association is a friendly and sociable group of people from both Whilton and the local area enjoying an evening of talks, demonstrations and slides on all aspects of gardening. During the summer months we have visits to gardens near and far. Why not come and join us? The fee is small, less than a pound a meeting - good value and you do not have to be a gardening fanatic either to join.

We hope to see you - next meeting after the AGM will be in February 2000.

Janet Bowers -Secretary
01327 842851

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM

Since the last newsletter which reported Whilton awards, the Judge's report and marking have been received and are as follows:-

WHILTON - 84 POINTS (Second)

"I did not expect to find such a pleasant village so close to one of the busiest motorways. Indeed the residents are intent in creating and maintaining a tranquil and cared for environment. A competitive element which appears to have been taken up by almost the entire village has produced a wealth of hanging baskets and containers which add colour and harmony to a well tended village" **Geoff Spate (Judge)**

First place was awarded to Rosliston with 90 points.

WELL DONE WHILTON

Janet Bowers - Co-ordinator



In the week before Christmas, in most kinds of weather.
With hand bells and carol sheets and utmost endeavour
We'll sing you some carols with voices so sweet
Though fingers are frozen and some have cold feet.
Up the village we'll travel with lanterns alight
And boxes a-jingling for a cause that is right

CAROL SINGING WEDNESDAY 22ND DECEMBER FROM 7.00PM

Summary of Events

- Sat 4 Dec 7.30pm Whilton Church - Concert of Christmas music by the Cantare Singers
- Mon 6 Dec 7.30pm Whilton Gardeners' Association - A.G.M. & Social
- Wed 8 Dec 7.30pm W.I. Members' Night
- Fri 10 Dec 11am Whilton Church - Pre-School Carols - all welcome
- Sun 12 Dec 2.00pm Spinney Project Working Party
- Sun 12 Dec 4.00pm Whilton Church - Christingle Service
- Sun 19 Dec 6.00pm Whilton Church - Carol Service
- Wed 22 Dec From 7.00-pm - Carol Singing round the Village
- Sat 25 Dec 11.00am Family Service & Holy Communion

New Year's Eve Event - Please see notice board

- Sat 1 Jan 11.45am - Whilton Church - Short Service followed by bell-ringing. (refreshments afterwards in V. Hall)
- Wed 12 Jan 7.30pm W.I. - Subject - Daventry Museum - Speaker - Mrs. V. Gobbitaf (Curator)

Wed 19th Jan Newsletter deadline for February issue

The Whilton newsletter is published bi-monthly and circulated free to every household within the Parish boundary. The costs are met by the Parish Council. The Editors are:

Harold & Trudy Haynes - The Old Plough, Main Street
Derek & Shirley Brown - Cherry Orton, Main Street

Contributions to the newsletter to any of the above **BY THE DEADLINE DATE, PLEASE**
